

INFORMATICS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**In collaboration, with****UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER (UoW)****BSc/ BSc (Hons) in Computer Science****Final Year Project 2017/18****Literature Review****For****User Experience Enhancement in Scrum
using Gamification Elements****By****2014081****Vishwa Kanahcna Perera****Supervised by****Mr. Pumudu Fernando**

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Introduction

Waterfall methodology and Agile Methodology has involved with software development for a long time. simple Waterfall method is being used for certain and defined requirement based projects while Agile method was used for project with uncertain requirements. Both methods are mature and has its own advantages and disadvantages. But in the modern society Agile method has become quite useful as most software doesn't not tend have fixed requirements.

As a matter of fact, *“Agile works best when members of the development team are completely dedicated to the project”* [Lotz M, 2013]. In such occasions, there is a high possibility that, working on the same project for a long time tend to get bored. For such occasions, there is nothing much we could do about it unless we have altered the software developments methodology in a way that it motivated developers to contently engage with work.

Scrum is a Framework which was built to practice Agile Methodology and currently it is named to be quite successful in the industry. Also Scrum itself is a gamified system but not quite gamified enough in the aspect of making user motivate in order to proceed with day to day tasks.

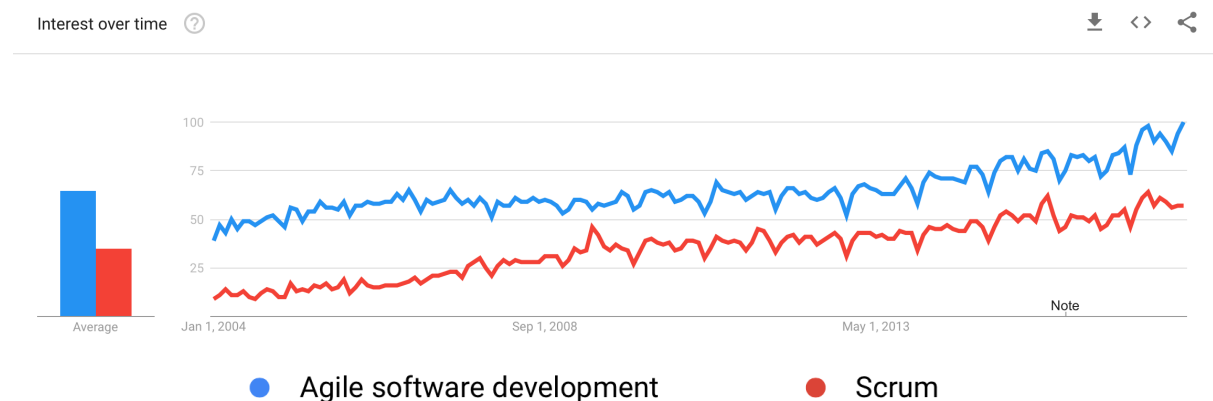


Figure 1: Search hit for "Agile Software Development and Scrum"

Scrum Methodology

During last couple of years, Agile Software Development methodology has become a trending topic alongside with Scrum framework, which is not just due to its gentle learning curve but also because of its effectiveness against all the pieces of software which are non-predictable because of its uncertain requirements changes.

“The Scrum approach treats these systems development processes as a controlled black box.” (Schwaber K, 1994), Scrum was introduced as a methodology which can manage, enhance and maintain an existing system or a newly developed production prototype. When we move further deep we can identify that each iteration also known as a sprint constant of all of the standard Waterfall phases, but each sprint only addresses few selected functionalities of the set phase.

But as a matter of fact, *“Agile works best when members of the development team are completely dedicated to the project”* (Lotz M, 2013). In such occasions, there is a high possibility that, working on the same project for a long time tend to get bored. For such occasions, there is nothing much we could do about it unless we have altered the software developments methodology in a way that it motivated developers to consistently engage with work.

Gamification

On the other hand, Gamification has been a trending topic and *“a subject to hype as a means of supporting user engagement and enhancing positive patterns in service use”* (Hamari, et al., 2014) Which is beneficial in order to increase user activity, social interaction, or in quality and productivity of actions.

In 2014 Juho Hamari and Jonna Koivisto from University of Tampere Along with Harri Sarsa from Aalto University, did a study related to “Studied motivational affordances and psychological/behavioral outcomes” proving that different services/activates expect different types of Motivational Categories and different types of Motivational Affordance. Which them lead us to the next aspect, which is, Combining both Scrum and Gamification Mechanisms effectively. Table 1 show an abstract of “Studied motivational affordances and psychological/behavioral outcomes”

Core Service/Activity	Motivational Affordance	Behavioral Outcome	Psychological Outcomes
Q&A websites	Badges	Behavior changed due to receiving badges	
Virtual human patient for training healthcare students	Leaderboard, Narrative (story, theme), Deadline (challenge)	Number and duration of interactions with virtual patient, likelihood of voluntary participation to a virtual patient interaction	Difference in user's approach to virtual patient interactions
Online idea Competition	Points, Leaderboard		Motivation, degree of happiness, flow, enjoyment, task involvement
Computer-mediated idea generation environment	Goals, Feedback	Performance (in idea generation)	

Table 1: Studied motivational affordances and psychological/behavioral outcomes abstracted from "Does Gamification Work? – A Literature Review of Empirical Studies on Gamification"

Analyzing Motivational Affordance

When we take a look at the Software product release plan, most of the time it is planned based on these features;

- Requirements: What are the changes need to enhance the current system
- Time duration: Delivery times, to gain competitive advantage
- Market competition: What are the current standards and what is required to best them
- Quality: What is the expected quality by the market
- Task breakdown according to the vision: What type of changes need to undergo to full fill the initial vision of the system
- Human resources and other resources: Managing the resources according to its availability

By taking all these variables into account, we realized that motivation is a must fact for the developers to succeed during sprint. By combining Scrum with Gamification mechanism, we can alter the target. From Finishing the product to the deadline to finish it fast as possible. 'table 2' shows how activities in Scrum methodology shows a similarity with the Core Services which was shown in the 'table 1'. Though all these activities do not align perfectly coincide, end mechanism shows a quite a big similarity.

(in Comparison with) Scrum	Core Service/Activity	Motivational Affordance	Behavioral Outcome	Psychological Outcomes
Bugs and Solutions (Quality)	Q&A websites	Badges	Behavior changed due to receiving badges	
Number of Tasks Completed during a minimum amount of time (Time Duration)	Virtual human patient for training healthcare students	Leaderboard, Narrative (story, theme), Deadline (challenge)	Number and duration of interactions with virtual patient likelihood of voluntary participation to a virtual patient interaction	Difference in user's approach to virtual patient interactions
Recreated bug solving process (Human Resources and other resources)	Online idea Competition	Points, Leaderboard		Motivation, degree of happiness, flow, enjoyment, task involvement
Initial Sprint Planning/ 15 minutes Standup meetings	Computer-mediated idea generation environment	Goals, Feedback	Performance (in idea generation)	

(Requirement Gathering)				
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Table 2: Studied motivational affordances and psychological/behavioral outcomes abstract in comparison with Scrum methodology

Combining Scrum with Gamification Mechanisms

With the comparison, it is clear that not every Gamification mechanisms will be accountable in Scrum Methodology if we take into comparison with “Studied motivational affordances and psychological/behavioral outcomes”. Badges, Leaderboard (point system), Deadlines, Feedbacks and goals are the most suitable with Scrum methodology. To the date there are 3 noticeable type of gamification approaches (Chou Y K, 2013),

- A. Collectable Driven Aka **Achievement Symbols**
- B. Character Driven Aka **Status Points**
- C. Player Driven Aka **Leader Board**

There are incidents where we can see Collectable Driven Mechanism is the best fit as it's has multiple opportunities which leads to different aspects, for an example, Swarm, which includes a Collectable Driven mechanism and all the stickers falls into different groups. And some of them doesn't quite make sense. For a System like Scrum, having just Collectable Driven System, would make the system either trash or limited. With the extension of gamification mechanism, applying Character driven mechanism to represent the developer himself. With a leveling mechanism which he/she gains levels according to Scrum activates would be much more convenient, also might represent a more playful environment.

Yet again, having just Character Driven system would not be enough as Character Driven Mechanic shows its own cons, Restricting the system just for a Character Driven will lead the developers just to see his/her own progress, will not give any driving force to outperform others.

This is when the importance of a hybrid system occurs as none of above gamification approaches would fit in solemnly own their own.

Sorting Gamification Elements

Affordance	Required / Not Required	Reasoning
Points	Not Required	Weight of a particular task varies from person to person
Leader Board	Required	Drives an individual to push further to perform better
Achievements / Badges	Not Required	Could use a surprise element but not necessarily
Levels	Required	Show case the progress
Story / Theme	Not Required	It's not feasible to apply a story
Clear Goals	Required	Each sprint has clear goals
Feed Back	Required	Each stand up meeting required feed backs
Rewards	Not Required	Could use a surprise element but not necessarily
Progress	Required	In order to display 'ones' progress
Challenge	*Surprise element	Could use a surprise element but not necessarily

Conclusion

Scrum is a methodology which has a dedicated team of developers, assigned to finish a particular project, which does not have defined requirements and uncertain features, there for the team is supposed to undergo rapid delivery of the product in complete functionalities. Most of the time this process be tiring for developers as they have to keep on working on the same project for some duration. In order to enhance the productivity and to motivate developers creating gamified environments

In this process choosing it's advised to choose the correct gamification elements to enhance experience towards positivity. In order to get the required outcome, surveys on each and every

feature should be done individually as individual component as each component hold its own value for the system individually.

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